

CLAYTON'S ELECTROTHERAPY AND ACTINOTHERAPY. By Pauline M. Scott, M.C.S.P., Dip.T.P. Sixth Edition. (Pp. 372; figs. 205. 40s). London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell, 1969.

THIS book – laid out in excellent print – is divided into three main sections, covering electrotherapy (direct and low frequency currents), high frequency currents, actinotherapy and other radiations. Each section progresses naturally towards the next sequence, and the whole work is punctuated with simple line diagrams to illustrate even more clearly the points made.

The chapter on electrical stimulation of nerve and muscle, and on electrical reactions has been brought up to date, and makes a valuable addition to the work, as does the chapter on semi-conductors and transistors and their place in the newer forms of electro-medical apparatus.

The last two chapters cover Ultrasonic therapy and Microwave Diathermy elaborating the formation, application, indications and contraindications for their employment as additional forms of treatment in Physical therapy.

The authoress is to be congratulated on producing this accurate, well-balanced and pleasantly written work, which is generally accepted by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, London, as a standard textbook for students of physiotherapy throughout their training and it is a most useful book for the Postgraduate training in Physical Medicine and Rheumatology. G.G.

ANNALS OF THE RHEUMATIC DISEASES INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN ARTIFICIAL FINGER JOINTS. Edited by J. S. Calnan and P. J. L. Holt (Pp. 110; figs. 90. 30s). London: British Medical Association, 1969.

THIS supplement of the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases (Vol. 28, No. 5) is a well edited account of the papers given and discussions and deliberations of a "work-party" of physicians and surgeons with specialized interest in the investigation and care of the rheumatic patient held at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London.

It is fitting that the effects of rheumatoid disease on the hand should have been chosen for special consideration in view of the complexity of the mechanisms involved and the frequency of severe rheumatoid deformity and disablement of the hand structures.

After an introduction by Prof. Welbourn, well known to this school, there follows a series of sections dealing with the anatomy and pathology of the hand and the biomechanics involved. Arthroplasties are then considered, following which there is an excellent section on the assessment of the hand from the physician and surgeon's view point. The operative technique is considered in papers and discussed in a stimulating manner and the indications and limitations of joint prosthesis are well aired in a section by the Editors.

This is an informative and stimulating document which should be read and studied by all those interested in the care of the rheumatoid patient. M.W.J.B.

THE EPILEPSIES – MODERN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT. By John M. Sutherland and Howard Tait. (Pp. 128; figs. 30. 25s). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969.

THIS book is designed for practitioners and post-graduate students working for higher examinations. The text is simple and straightforward and the tables are clear, particularly the summaries at the end of each chapter. There are no references which, I think, is unfortunate as they are a useful guide to further reading. The book would have been improved if it included a chapter on epilepsy in childhood with particular reference to the new-born. The note on toxic seizures could be expanded and clarified in the next edition.

A sensible and readable book.

J.H.D.M